

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04414 281456Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5703

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4414

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF US PFOR

SUBJ: CISKEI CHIEF MINISTER SEEKS APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY

1. DR. JOHN BURNS, PERSONAL ADVISOR TO CHIEF MINISTER OF CISKEI LENNOX SEBE, TELEPHONED EMBASSY 27TH TO SAY THAT SEBE WAS ANXIOUS TO TRY TO ARRANGE FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, HOPEFULLY PRIOR TO OCTOBER 6. SEBE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER OCTOBER 8 AND FEELS HIS POSITION WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF SECRETARY COULD RECEIVE HIM BEFOREHAND. WE TOLD BURNS WE WOULD INQUIRE ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A MEETING, CAUTIONING, HOWEVER, THAT IT APPEARS TO US THAT SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE IS VERY CROWDED AT THIS TIME.

2. BURNS HAS PUSHED HARD IN RECENT WEEKS TO SEEK OCCASIONS TO ENHANCE SEBE'S IMAGE. HE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH AF/S DIRECTOR WISNER AT TIME SECRETARY MET WITH BLACK LEADERS, INCLUDING SEBE, SEPT 18. EMBASSY HAS POUCHED HANDWRITTEN REQUEST FROM BURNS TO WISNER, POINTING OUT REASONS WHY BURNS FEELS ANOTHER MEETING BETWEEN SEBE AND SECRETARY WOULD BE USEFUL. THIS ORIGINAL REQUEST MAY NOT HAVE ARRIVED IN DEPT AS YET.

3. THOUGH SEBE IS ONE OF THE MORE ARTICULATE HOMELAND LEADERS AND HAS RECENTLY SPOKEN OUT MORE STRONGLY IN OPPOSITION TO SOME ASPECTS OF SAG POLICY, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AGAINST ACCORDING HIM ANY SPECIAL ATTENTION.

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04414 281456Z

FOR THE SECRETARY TO RECEIVE ANY HOMELAND LEADER AT THIS POINT WOULD PROBABLY ADD TO THE EXISTING CRITICAL COMMENT

THAT HE MET ONLY WITH BLACK LEADERS WHO ENJOYED SOME MEASURE OF ENDORSEMENT FROM THE SAG. MOREOVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE SEBE SHOULD RECEIVE TREATMENT MORE FAVORABLE THAN THAT WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN OTHER HOMELAND LEADERS SUCH AS BUTHELEZI AND PHATUDI WHO HAVE REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS DURING RECENT WEEKS.

4. IF DEPT CONCURS, EMBASSY WILL INFORM BURNS THAT SHOULD OTHER BUSINESS TAKE SEBE TO THE UNITED STATES, HE WOULD BE WELCOME TO CALL AT THE DEPT FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE AFRICAN BUREAU, BUT THAT HEAVY COMMITMENTS MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT THE SECRETARY COULD RECEIVE HIM IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
BOWDLER

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